Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

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EPA NEWS

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~~FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE~~

PROGRESS #2

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~~EPA 62-81~~

Dead Creek
Pollution
boundary set

~~SPRINGFIELD, IL., February 3, 1981~~ -- Organic and inorganic materials contaminating Dead Creek are primarily confined to its bed between Queeny Avenue and Judith Lane in Cahokia, according to the results of an extensive testing program just completed by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

All drinking water wells in the area were sampled and found to be uncontaminated.

With few exceptions the IEPA found little additional movement of contaminants into groundwater or soils near the creek. A total of 61 samples taken from the creek bed and on all sides of the contaminated area were taken and analyzed in IEPA laboratories. Soil and water samples were taken from north of Queeny Avenue along both sides of the creek and in the creek bed to the point it flows into the Cahokia sewage treatment plant.

These samples were analyzed for surface, sub-surface and groundwater contaminants that included barium, copper, lead, nickel, zinc and phosphorous inorganic materials as well as organic materials such as PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls), chlordane, alkylbenzenes, biphenyls, toluene, xylene, chlorobenzen, trichlorobenzene, chloronitrobenzene and dichlorophenol.

OVER

North of Queeny Avenue trace levels of PCB's and moderately elevated levels of copper, lead, nickel, zinc and phosphorous were found in water samples taken from two lagoons at the eastern edge of Cerro Copper Co. property. Sediment from these lagoons showed low levels of PCB's, but were not analyzed for inorganics. A monitoring well was sunk about 20 yards west of the Dead Creek culvert and 20 yards north of Queeny Avenue. Groundwater samples from this well showed no PCB's, low levels of chlorobenzene and chloroaniline as well as moderately elevated levels of copper and zinc.

Air samples were negative for undisturbed soils, but when the soil in the creek bed was disturbed there were indications that potentially harmful vapors are released.

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